

REMARKS

Claims 15, 16, 18, 23, and 28 have been amended. Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled.

Claims 15; 16; 18; 23; and 28 remain in the application for examination. Among these, claim 15 is the sole independent system claim. Claims 17; 19; 20; 24; 25; 26; and 27 remained withdrawn, pending allowance of a generic claim.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the remarks that follow.

The original claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) based upon Trout et al. (US 6,409,757) or Marcade (US 5,676,696) in view of Rosenman (EP 0663184).

Independent claim 15 has been amended to define subject matter neither taught nor suggested by the documents. None of the documents teaches or suggests a prosthesis system A prosthesis system comprising a fastener that includes a distal body region configured for penetrating tissue in response to an implantation force and a proximal body region that includes an attachment element of a carrier that, when the distal body region is in a tissue penetrating condition, is exposed outside tissue to mark a targeted prosthesis placement site in advance of deployment of a prosthesis.. None of the documents teaches or suggests a prosthesis system that includes a prosthesis delivery catheter sized and configured to deploy a prosthesis in the targeted prosthesis placement site marked by the attachment element of the carrier and to manipulate the prosthesis body to mechanically engage an attachment element of the prosthesis with the attachment element of the carrier, to thereby couple the prosthesis to the fastener at the targeted prosthesis placement site.

In Trout, the fastener is coupled to the prosthesis after the prosthesis has been deployed. The fastener does not mark the targeted prosthesis delivery site in advance of deployment of the prosthesis.

In Marcade, the fastener (a barb) and prosthesis form an integrated unit, which are deployed simultaneously. As in Trout, the fastener does not mark the targeted prosthesis delivery site in advance of deployment of the prosthesis.

Rosenman likewise does not teach or suggest a fastener that is deployed in advance of a prosthesis, to mark a targeted prosthesis placement site prior to deployment of the prosthesis.

For these reasons, claims 15; 16; 18; 23; and 28 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

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